

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
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INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
AMPMBASSY MOGADISCIO 330
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 3955

FOR EMBASSY CAPE TOWN

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, KE, SO, US
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR YOUNG MEETS WITH KENYAN FOREIGN MINISTER

1. SUMMARY. AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S MARCH 28 MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER WAIYAKI PROVIDED AN OPPORTUNITY TO REASSURE KENYANS OF U.S. POLICY ON ARMS TO SOMALIA. WAIYAKI CLEARLY CONSIDERS THE SOMALI THREAT TO KENYA A REAL AND PRESENT ONE AND BELIEVES THAT SIAD BARRE WILL RETURN TO THE SOVIETS TO OBTAIN OFFENSIVE WEAPONS. END SUMMARY.

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2. AMBASSADORS YOUNG AND LEMELLE MET WITH KENYAN FOREIGN MINISTER WAIYAKI FOR AN HOUR PM MARCH 28 DURING AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S BRIEF STOP-OVER IN NAIROBI EN ROUTE TO LAGOS. AMBASSADOR YOUNG BEGAN THE MEETING BY GIVING A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF HIS TRIP TO SOUTHERN AFRICA AND OF THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN RHODESIA AND NAMIBIA. HE THEN TURNED THE CONVERSATION TO KENYA'S CONCERNS REGARDING THE HORN.

3. AFTER STATING KENYA'S OFT-EXPRESSED DEMANDS THAT SOMALIA RENOUNCE ITS CLAIMS ON KENYAN TERRITORY AND AGREE NOT TO INTERFERE IN KENYA'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS, WAIYAKI CALMLY ASKED: "HOW MANY TIMES IS SOMALIA GOING TO BE ABLE TO CROSS BORDERS AND DESTROY LIVES AND PROPERTY AND THEN SIMPLY AND QUIETLY WITHDRAW? IN THE FUTURE YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO TELL THE ETHIOPIANS OR THE KENYANS NOT TO CROSS SOMALIA'S BORDERS IN RETALIATION. IF THE WEST DOESN'T STAND UP STRONGLY AGAINST SIMILAR BORDER CROSSINGS BY IAN SMITH, THE EFFECT WILL BE FELT THROUGHOUT AFRICA."

4. AS THE CONVERSATION ALTERNATED BETWEEN THE HORN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA, AMBASSADOR YOUNG REMARKED THAT IN INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS AT THE UNITED NATIONS CONCERNING POSSIBLE AFRICAN TROOP CONTRIBUTORS TO ANY UN FORCES SENT TO NAMIBIA OR RHODESIA, KENYA IS FREQUENTLY MENTIONED. WAIYAKI REPLIED THAT KENYA WOULD CERTAINLY CONSIDER ANY REQUEST, IF ONE WERE MADE OF THEM, AND THAT THE DECISION WOULD BE LEFT TO THE PRESIDENT; HOWEVER, IF THE CURRENT DANGER FROM SOMALIA PERSISTS, WAIYAKI DOESN'T SEE HOW KENYA WOULD BE ABLE TO ACCEDE TO THE REQUEST. "AS LONG AS WE HAVE TO LOOK OVER OUR SHOULDERS TO THE NORTH", HE SAID, "WE CAN'T LET OUR TROOPS GO ELSEWHERE." THE KENYAN PERMANENT SECRETARY, WHO WITH OTHERS ACCOMPANIED WAIYAKI, SUGGESTED THAT REGARDING NAMIBIA IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE FOR KENYA TO PROVIDE CIVILIANS FOR U.N. ADMINISTRATIVE ROLES.

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5. WAIYAKI THEN ASKED HOW MUCH ARMAMENTS THE U.S. HOPES TO SUPPLY SOMALIA. AMBASSADOR YOUNG REPLIED THAT THE U.S. DOES NOT "HOPE TO SUPPLY" ANY; THAT OUR ASSISTANCE WILL BE MAINLY IN DEVELOPMENT AND FOOD; THAT ANY WEAPONS PROVIDED WOULD BE PURELY DEFENSIVE AND WOULD ONLY BE PROVIDED IF SOMALIA FIRST RENOUNCED IN SOME WAY ITS TERRITORIAL CLAIMS. HE ADDED THAT NONLETHAL AID HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO ETHIOPIA. THE UNITED STATES CONSIDERS ETHIOPIA A LONG-RANGE ALLY, AND IT WOULD BE APPRECIATED IF KENYA COULD HELP ETHIOPIA RECOGNIZE THAT. WAIYAKI NOTED THAT HE WAS LEAVING MARCH 29 FOR ETHIOPIA AND AGREED TO BRIEF AMBASSADOR LEMELLE ON HIS RETURN.

6. BOTH YOUNG AND WAIYAKI AGREED ON THE LIKELIHOOD THAT SIAD BARRE WILL GO RIGHT BACK TO THE SOVIETS FOR OFFENSIVE ARMS. "THAT'S OUR ANALYSIS-", SAID WAIYAKI WITH CERTAINTY. HE ADDED: "THE SOMALIS ARE TOUGH. THEY PLAY FOR HIGH STAKES. IT'S THEIR NATURE. SIAD BARRE WITHOUT ARMS IS LIKE A MAN WITHOUT CLOTHES."

7. AMBASSADOR YOUNG CONCLUDED THE MEETING BY STRESSING THE IMPORTANCE WHICH THE UNITED STATES PLACES ON KENYA'S REMAINING STRONG AND STABLE AND ON MAINTAINING GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN

OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

8. COMMENT. THE MEETING WITH WAIYAKI WAS CORDIAL AND RELAXED AND PROVIDED AN OPPORTUNITY TO REASSURE HIM REGARDING U.S. POLICY ON ARMS TO SOMALIA. WAIYAKI CONSIDERS THE SOMALI THREAT TO KENYA A REAL AND PRESENT ONE AND APPEARS CONVINCED THAT SIAD BARRE WILL RETURN TO THE SOVIET FOLD IF NECESSARY TO OBTAIN OFFENSIVE WEAPONS. END COMMENT.
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